**Was there a particular way of knowing that was most important in the decision about whether Data was the property of the Starfleet? If so or if not, tell us why and how.**

In this essay I will be discussing the Star Trek episode “measure of a man” and whether there was a particular way of knowing from sense perception, reason, emotion and language that was most important in the decision of if Data, the android was the ‘property’ of the star fleet or not.

In the episode one of the ways of knowing most used by commander Riker was of Sense perception. He used this in many ways such as the time in which he asked Data to bend a metal that was obviously unbendable to any other human. However for Data it was a simple task, it had dehumanized him and represented him as robot and worthy of being ‘property’ rather than having his own rights. Another way in which he used sense perception is when he had taken off Data’s arm. It was a simple and painless procedure in which he easily detached. Data had felt no pain and it was another way of portraying him to be a robot rather than a human. In this it is shown that Data only looks human but when it comes to touch and taste he is not human at all.

The next way of knowing would be of Reason. Reason is used mostly by Captain Picard when defending Data. He asks the ‘robotics expert’ what the 3 rules that define beings; these were intelligence, self awareness and consciousness. He then states that Data is also very intelligent, he proves that he is self aware when asking why they are in the room and what they are doing and he does not feel the need to even prove the third one as he knows his point has been made. This then creates the effect that even the expert and the one that should know and define it all proves himself wrong, by the fact that Data has all 3 of the definitions of a being, even though he is an android. This shows reason in the sense that if that is what humans are meant to be defined by, then Data is no less than a human himself and therefore should have his own rights.

Language is the third way of knowing. It is used by both Commander Ricer and Captain Picard. Captain Picard uses language when he asks Data of his self awareness, of where is and what he is doing. When Data answers this Captain Picard uses his language of expressing his use of ‘I’. However Commander Ricer also uses Data’s speech as tool for his case. When Command Ricer asks Data of what he is and what he is made of as well as who is he made by, Data replies giving very technical and precise answers, things that no normal human would remember or state in the same way. Data says what he made of which is not flesh and bones like humans and he says that he was created by a human. Commander Ricer finishes of by turning Data off and dramatically saying “Pinocchio is broken”. The use of language in this expresses him to be once again robot like and almost even soulless.

Lastly Captain Picard mainly uses emotion to win his case. He begins by asking Data why he keeps some of his personal items, as they are priceless and ineffective; Data answers this by showing signs of vanity, lust, friendship and intimacy, these are things that an android or a robot should not feel. Captain Picard uses emotion to have and give sympathy for Data, in the sense that he also has feeling and a right to make his own choices in his own life. That Data has feelings and emotions as much as any human would, he expresses him a friend and a ‘valuable member’ of his enterprise. This approach works due to Data’s appearance, emotion and sentiment. Captain Picard then finishes his case by expressing a very emotional topic to many people, he states that if many more identical androids like Data were to be made, they would be creating another race, creating disposable humans who would do work the humans dislike. Therefore they would be once again creating slaves. This gives a large emotional impact on the judge as well as the opposing team, the idea of slavery and creating a race of disposable humans led to Captain Picard’s triumph.

So to conclude the four ways of knowing are used in different and many ways throughout the episode nevertheless in my opinion the most important way of knowing expressed in the case of Data’s status was emotion. Without the emotion they would have simply classed Data as an android as it would have been the most logical explanation and if they had not all worked with and known Data on a different level it would not have resulted to such a large issue at all. I think emotion created the situation along with resolving it.